

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-7, 9-15, and 17-22 are currently pending in the present application, with Claims 2, 8, and 16 being canceled, Claims 1, 11-15, and 17-19 being amended. Reconsideration and reexamination of the claims are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to the amended claims.

Applicants note that the claims are not ambiguous or indefinite with respect to the recitation of the term “amplification rate,” the meaning of which Applicant respectfully submit is clearly and plainly understood by one of ordinary skill in the art. Indeed, the Examiner discussed the meaning of the term without any ambiguity in the rejection of the claims.

The Examiner’s rejection appears to be based on 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as the Examiner’s rejection appears to be suggest that there lack written description in the specification of the present application to support the recitation of “amplification rate.”

For purposes of further clarification, Applicants have amended the claim to change “amplification rate” to “amplification gain” so as to be consistent with the specification (see paragraphs [0025]-[0028] and [0030]); Applicants note that this amendment does not change the scope of the claims or the limitation.

As previously communicated, the present invention is directed to a method of adjusting levels of amplifiers in a multi-input channel audio system. Specifically, the recited method allows a user to separates the multi-channels into one or more groups of channels so as to provide the ability to process certain channels while isolating certain other channels from the processing. In this instance, each group is analyzed to detect a maximal signal level (from one of the input channels),

and, in accordance with the detected maximal signal level, effect the appropriate amplification gain of the input signals for that group; the higher the detected maximal signal level, the less gain is required.

The term "gain" is clearly described in the present application, including paragraphs [0025]-[0028]. Additionally, Fig. 4 of the present application illustrates an input/output gain characteristic of a compressor unit. In Fig. 4, the gain is indicated as the tangent of the input/output characteristic curve. As can be clearly understood from looking at the curve, the gain decreases as the input level increases.

Applicants further note that the Examiner is correct in observing that the present application teaches determining a common multiplier signal according to a maximum detected signal. Applicants further note that, as described in paragraph [0030] of the present application, the common multiplier is the amplification gain. Accordingly, by the Examiner's own observations, "amplification gain" is clearly supported by the present application. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that each of the presently pending claims of the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at anytime with any further questions or clarifications regarding the claimed subject matter.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 393032038900. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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